

In The Abstract

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

IMPROVED INVESTMENT CASTING PROCESS

The present invention provides a method for the production of a shell mould. The method comprises the sequential steps of:-

(i) dipping a preformed expendable pattern into a slurry of refractory particles and colloidal liquid binder whereby to form a coating layer on said pattern,

(ii) depositing particles of refractory material onto said coating, and

(iii) drying,

steps (i) to (iii) being repeated as often as required to produce a shell mould having a primary coating layer and at least one secondary coating layer, characterised in that during at least one performance of step (ii) a gel-forming material is also deposited onto the coating layer formed in step (i).

The invention also relates to a shell mould producible by the method.